



FRONT RANGE BASEBALL REGULATIONS 2009

INTRODUCTION

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by Front Range Amateur Baseball Association. Amendments to these rules and regulations shall be processed as described in the Association By Laws. When these rules refer to a member area or organization it shall also be meant to include those members representing a single team.

REGULATIONS

I. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for play each member organization shall
 - 1. Have on file with their organization a copy of a valid birth certificate of all players registered with their organization.
 - 2. Be in compliance with the rules for eligibility as defined by AABC, USSSA and NBC at the National, Regional and State level.
 - 3. Have available playing fields for the scheduling of their teams home games.
 - 4. Be able to provide certified umpires for all scheduled home games.

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II. TEAMS

- A. Teams will be formed with the following criteria.
 - 1. Teams will be placed in one of the following leagues
 - a. Major League
 - b. Minor AAA League
 - c. Minor AA League
 - 2. When an age group has 12 or more teams then the teams will be placed in one of the following divisions by a blind draw, except that when there are two teams from the same area then one team will be placed by blind draw and the other will be assigned to the other division. If more than two teams then placement will continue using this same procedure.
 - a. West Division

- b. East Division
- 3. Players will be placed on teams of the same age in the following manner, if possible.
 - a. Eight (8) year olds and under
 - b. Nine (9) year olds and under
 - c. Ten (10) year olds and under
 - d. Eleven (11) year olds and under
 - e. Twelve (12) year olds and under
 - f. Thirteen (13) year olds and under
 - g. Fourteen (14) year olds and under
 - h. Sixteen (16) year olds and under
- 4. A team will play in that age group which matches the age of their oldest player whose age shall be that attained by July 31 of the current year.
- 5. When a team finishes with less than a .300 record, they will be bracketed to the next lower league the following season, except for any team in the Minor AA League.
 - a. An exception to this rule will be considered
 - i. if the team is organized by a member area and they petition the Executive Board for an exception, or
 - ii. if the team is an independent member team and they petition the Executive Board for an exception by showing that they have made significant changes to remain in the higher league.
- 6. When a team finishes in first place in the Minor AA League or Minor AAA League they may be bracketed to play in the next higher League the following season.
- B. FRABA will affiliate with USSSA. Member areas will sanction their Major League teams with all of these organizations, for which they are eligible, in each age group, as follows:
 - 1. Eight and under – USSSA
 - 2. Nine and under - USSSA
 - 3. Ten and under - USSSA
 - 4. Eleven and under - USSSA
 - 5. Twelve and under - USSSA,
 - 6. Thirteen and under - USSSA
 - 7. Fourteen and under - USSSA,
 - 8. Sixteen and under - USSSA,

- C. The number of players on each team shall be no more than fifteen (15) players for ages eight (8) through fourteen (14).
- D. The number of teams from each organization, that will be placed in each League, for all age groups, will be determined by each member organization. Each member organization is expected to play a team in that League that properly reflects the ability of the players on the team.
- E. Each team that is scheduled to play in the Association, shall submit a roster to the President, or his designee, that will list the name of each player assigned to that team, the player's street address, city, zip code, phone number and date of birth and which will be signed by the League or Area President, unless the team is not associated with a League or Area then it will be signed by the team Manager or Head Coach. The roster shall be delivered by hand, mail or fax to the FRABA designee prior to the designated opening day of the season or the first scheduled game of the team, whichever occurs first.
 - 1. Any team that has not submitted a proper roster and which plays a scheduled game shall be charged with a forfeit loss for every game that is played until the roster has been delivered to the Association President or the official designee unless they have received permission from the President for an extension.
 - 2. Major League teams shall also submit to the Association, a copy of a valid birth certificate for each player listed on their roster.
 - 3. Players who are on a FRABA team roster, after it has been submitted to the Association, may not be moved to another FRABA team during the Summer Season.
 - 4. Players may be added to a FRABA team roster until June 1.
 - 5. Coaches must carry a copy of their FRABA roster to all scheduled league games. Failure to present a copy on demand by the opposing coach will result in forfeiture of the game.
 - 6. Coaches must carry a copy of a birth certificate for each player on their roster. Failure to present a copy for any player on demand by the opposing coach will result in that player being ineligible for play for the remainder of the game. Birth certificates presented later in the game will not make the player eligible for the game.
 - 7. Any request for a roster or birth certificate must be relayed through the home plate umpire, either during ground rules or during the playing of the game. Requests made after the game has been declared official by the umpire will not be honored.
- F. Any team that is found to have played an ineligible player will forfeit all league sanctioned games in which the ineligible player participated. Participation shall be defined as having been present on the field of play, either defensively or as a batter, in which one or more pitches have been delivered.

III. SCHEDULING

- A. Games will be scheduled by the Association at such time and place as determined by the Executive Board.
- B. Teams who are to be sanctioned for play in the Association must be represented at the time and place scheduling is to take place for their age group. Any team not represented by a league, area or team representative, or who can not schedule their home games because they do not have a home field for play will be dropped from the schedule for the season.
- C. Each league, area or team will pay their league fees for their team(s) before they will be allowed to schedule. Any league, area or team who can not pay their fees before scheduling may ask for an extension from the Association President but must make payment before the first game of the season. Any team whose fees have not been paid by their league, area or team will have all games played declared forfeit until such fees are paid.
- D. Any game in which either the date or field or time has been listed as TBD (To Be Determined) will have the date, field or time properly scheduled before the mandatory coach's meeting prior to the start of the season. Games not properly scheduled will be recorded as a forfeit loss to the home team unless otherwise ruled on by the President. Any scheduling problems that are discovered (i.e. two games on the same field at the same time) will be resolved by the home team. Such scheduling conflicts not fixed prior to start of the scheduled game may result in a forfeit loss to the home team.

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IV. GAMES

- A. Games will be scheduled by the Association at such time and place as determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. Each area will be responsible for making sure that fields are lined and bases and pitching rubbers are properly laid out for their home games. In the event that a field is not properly laid out, the home team will have 20 minutes, from the scheduled start time of the game, to line and prepare the field for play. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the game by the home team unless the visiting team agrees to play the game.
- C. When more than one game is to be played on a field, only the first game must be freshly lined.
- D. Each area will provide two (2) umpires for all home league games, both Majors and Minors, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Roberto Clemente (8 & under Majors) - One (1) umpire
 - 2. Ten (10) and under Minor AAA and all divisions AA - One (1) umpire

- E. When a game is scheduled to have two (2) umpires and only one (1) shows, or no umpires show, the visiting team will select one of the following options:
1. Playing the game with one (1) umpire.
 2. Not playing the game and having it rescheduled.
 3. Selecting a parent, who is not a coach or an assistant coach, to umpire who will be paid the fee normally paid to a regular umpire. If two (2) parents are needed then each team will select a parent. When this selection is made the home team must make payment to the parent(s) within three (3) weeks of the completion of the game or the visiting team will be awarded a win by forfeit, no matter what the outcome of the game was. (If a parent wishes to waive their payment they will sign the home teams scorebook "PAYMENT WAIVED" and sign their name.)

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V. PROTESTS

- A. Any scheduled league game may be protested providing the following criteria is met:
1. A protest can only be made by the manager or head coach, or an acting head coach, of the team protesting.
 2. If the reason for the protest is because of an umpires call, the opposing coach and the Plate Umpire must be notified of the intent to protest before a pitch is delivered following the call. The scorebooks for both teams will be marked to show the time at which the protest was made and will be signed by the Plate Umpire and the opposing coach. If either or both refuse to sign, this will in no way affect a teams right to protest.
 3. If a coach wishes to protest an opposing coaches roster, they may do so by notifying the Plate Umpire and the opposing coach just prior to the start of a game or any time during the game.
 4. Any coach wishing to file a protest must file an official protest with their area president within 72 hours of the completion of the game being protested.
 5. The Associations protest committee must receive the official protest within six (6) days following the completion of the game being protested.
 6. Any protest being filed must include the following items before it will be acted upon by the protest committee:
 - a. Detailed explanation of the protest signed by the protesting coach and area president.
 - b. Copy of the score sheets of game being protested. Opposing team score sheets are not necessary at filing but may be asked for by the protest committee.
 - c. A protest fee of \$50 in cash or money order.
 7. The protest committee will meet on the protest within 72 hours of receiving the protest to determine if the protest is valid and a hearing is necessary. If a hearing is needed it will be scheduled within 7 days of the committee's meeting.

8. If a protest is upheld the fee will be returned to the protesting coach along with the committee's ruling. If the protest is denied the fee will be kept by the Association.
9. In all protested games, the decision of the Protest Committee shall be final.

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VI. RESCHEDULES

- A. Games called for the following reasons will be rescheduled:
 1. When a game is canceled, postponed or suspended for poor weather such as, but not limited to: rain, lightening, hail, etc.
 2. When a team is unable to field nine (9) ballplayers because of a school sponsored or school scheduled activity such as: graduation, outdoor lab, etc.
 3. Games being played on a field where there are no lights and darkness has progressed to the point where continued play would be hazardous to the ballplayers.
 4. Games being played on fields where a curfew is imposed and continued play would violate the curfew.
 5. Games that are called because more than one (1) hour has elapsed past the original start time.
 6. A team is participating in a non F.R.A.B.A. tournament and has a scheduled league game and has given the league fifteen (15) days advance notice.
 - a. Notice to the league shall be considered as making personal contact with the President, in person or on the phone, not mail or phone message, in which the coach gives the dates of the non FRABA tournament and the dates of the scheduled league game(s).
 - b. The coach shall give the President three (3) or more dates for each game to be re-scheduled and the President shall notify the opposing coaches of the conflict and the dates. From this point paragraph C shall prevail.
- B. Games will not be rescheduled and a team will be charged with a forfeit if it is unable to play for the following reasons:
 1. A team is unable to field nine (9) players because of injuries or sickness, vacations or participation in another athletic event, excluding baseball, that is not school sponsored.
 - a. A team shall have twenty (20) minutes from game start time to field nine (9) players.
 - i. If the visiting team is missing a ninth player the game may be started and the missing player will be counted as an out when it is their turn at bat. If the missing player has not shown by the time they must take their defensive positions then the game shall be declared a forfeit to the home team.
 - ii. If the home team is missing the player and is not available after the twenty minutes has elapsed then as soon as the home team takes their defensive

position then the game shall be declared a forfeit to the visiting team.

- iii. A team is scheduled to play a double header and does not wish to play one of the two games scheduled.
- C. When a game needs to be rescheduled the two coaches will agree on three (3) or more dates within two weeks of the regularly scheduled game. The home team coach will then contact their area scheduler and make arrangements for a playing field and umpires. If the home team area does not have fields available then the visiting coach will check with their area scheduler for a playing field. If the visiting team is able to schedule the game the home team area will make arrangements for umpires at the visitors field or compensate the other area for umpires.
1. No team will be forced to re-schedule a game on a date:
 - a. that would have them play three (3) league* games in two (2) or less days.
 - b. that would have them play four (4) or more league* games in two (2) or more consecutive days.
 - c. where they have a previously scheduled team activity that is not a practice (e.g. fund raiser, trip, etc.,).
 - d. where they have a tournament game that was scheduled prior to the need to re-schedule a game.
 - e. Non-league, scrimmage, pick up or practice games will not be considered as games for the purpose of [a] and [b].
 2. No team will refuse to re-schedule a game if, by playing, they would have to play:
 - a. three (3) single league games in three (3) consecutive days or
 - b. two (2) league games in a single day.
 - c. when a team has a scheduled practice on a date that is available to play a game.
- D. If both areas do not have fields available within the two week time limit the game will be rescheduled at the earliest opportunity, but will be rescheduled before the end of the regular season.
- E. The home team coach will be responsible for determining if a field is playable before the start of a game. Once the Umpire-in-charge has taken control of a game the umpires will determine if a field is playable.
- F. No game will be started if more than one hour has elapsed past the original start time.
- G. Any game not re-scheduled by the final day of the regular season will be recorded as a 0-0 tie.

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VII. EQUIPMENT

- A. Every player whose name appears on an official roster must wear the complete uniform as issued by the member area they are registered with. The complete uniform is considered to be a matching cap, jersey and pants. This uniform shall be worn at all regular league and playoff games.

Penalty for violation will be to prohibit any player not wearing the proper uniform from playing. (See Rules, Section 1.00, rule 1.11[a][3])

- B. Identifying numerals must be attached to all uniforms in all age groups.
- C. Shoes with steel spikes are prohibited in the nine (9) thru eleven (11) age groups.
- D. All players shall be required to wear full, double eared protective helmets when at bat and when running bases.
- E. All catchers are required to wear athletic cups and throat protectors. Catchers in the nine (9) thru twelve (12) age groups are required to wear catcher helmets with double eared protection.
- F. Teams may use wooden bats, aluminum bats or the new ceramic coated bats that are smooth, not more than 2 ¾ inches in diameter at the thickest part, not more than 42 inches in length and weigh no more in ounces than the length of the bat. Bats must not be chipped, cracked, repainted or altered in any way from the way they were manufactured except for the handle which may be covered or treated with a material or foreign substance to improve the grip for not more than 18 " from its end. Bats that have been labeled as a SOFTBALL BAT may not be used in any game.

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VIII. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- A. The Association has established the structure of play to be two separate leagues with at least two divisions in each league as follows:
 - 1. Teams that will be sanctioned with those organizations in which the Association is affiliated with shall be placed in a league to be called the Major League.
 - 2. Teams that will not be sanctioned will be placed in a league to be called the Minor League.
- B. The number of teams that will be placed in each division of each league will be determined by the Board of Directors on the day of scheduling.

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IX. GAME SCORES

- A. A record of all games played will be kept by the Association.
- B. Each area will designate an individual who will act as the official scorekeeper for their respective area for all games. This scorekeeper will collect the results of every game played by their teams and report the scores of all games won by their teams, both home and away, to the Association scorekeeper each week.
- C. For every game played the home team scorekeeper will be known as the official scorekeeper for that game, but, both teams will be responsible for keeping a record of the game for the duration of the season. In the event of a protest or question concerning the results of the game or player eligibility, both teams must be able to produce a legible copy of the score sheets.

- D. Each team will be responsible for reporting the score of every game they are scheduled to play to their area scorekeeper in whatever manner is designated by the member area.
- E. In the event of a rain out, suspension or postponement of a game the area scorekeeper will report such situations to the Association scorekeeper.
- F. The Association scorekeeper will provide a weekly standing for all leagues and divisions to the member areas and the local newspapers if so directed by the Board of Directors.
- G. Scores will be reported to the area scorekeeper within 72 hours (3 days) of the completion of a game and to the Association scorekeeper within seven (7) days of the completion of a game. Failure to report a score within the designated time allowed may result in the recording of a 0 to 0 tie for both teams who were scheduled to play.

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X. LEAGUE STANDINGS AND TOURNAMENT SEEDING

A. MAJOR LEAGUE

- 1. The Executive Board will, as soon as it is possible, give to each Major League team, by age group, a list of all sanctioned tournaments with dates and location.
- 2. The method for tournament selection or assignment will be established by the Representatives at the January meeting of the membership.
- 3. The final standings will be supplied to each team just prior to tournament selection or assignment date. Eligibility for tournament play will be determined by the number of wins and losses a team has as reported by the Association scorekeeper.
- 4. Teams will be assigned to or allowed to select their tournament in order of finish with the first place team selecting first, the second place team selecting second and so on. In the event of a tie for any place determination of selection or assignment will be based on the following format.
 - a. Wins and losses in head to head play. If still tied then
 - b. Total runs scored in head to head play. If still tied then
 - c. Total runs scored in league play. If still tied then
 - d. Fewest runs allowed in league play. If still tied then
 - e. Coin toss to determine placement.

B. MINOR LEAGUE AAA DIVISION

1. The Executive Board will affiliate all MINOR LEAGUE AAA DIVISION teams with USSSA.
2. The 1st place team will be sent to the USSSA state tournament as the official FRABA representative.
3. A league tournament will be held for remaining MINOR LEAGUE teams at the discretion of the board.

MINOR LEAGUE AA DIVISION

1. MINOR LEAGUE AA DIVISION teams will be sanctioned USSSA and eligible for tournament play if Front Range team fee is paid.

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XI. SEASON OF PLAY

- A. The Representatives, at the November meeting of the members, will establish the starting and ending dates for the Spring Season, Summer Season and the Fall Season.
- B. The Executive Board will establish the dates, times and place for scheduling games for the Spring Season, Summer Season and the Fall Season.
- C. The number of games to be scheduled for each age group for the Spring Season will be established by the Representatives at the January meeting of the members.
- D. The number of games to be scheduled for each age group for the Summer Season will be established by the Representatives at the February meeting of the members.
- E. The number of games to be scheduled for each age group for the Fall Season will be established by the Representatives at the June meeting of the members.

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